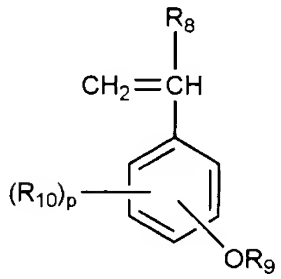
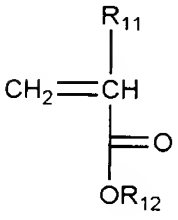
CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIM 3

3. (Amended) A process for the preparation of the alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 1 in which a compound represented by Formula (IV) whose hydroxyl group of the phenol residue is protected



Formula (IV)

(wherein, R_8 is hydrogen or methyl, R_9 is a group to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid, R_{10} is alkyl having 1 to 5 carbons, p is 0, 1 or 2 and R_{10} is the same or different when p is 2) is polymerized, or a compound of Formula (IV) and a vinylaromatic compound are copolymerized, by anionic polymerization using an anionic polymerization initiator as a polymerization initiator, followed by copolymerization with a (meth)acrylic ester represented by Formula (V)

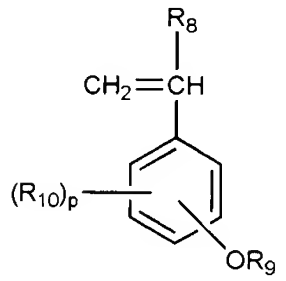


Formula (V)

(wherein, R_{11} is hydrogen or methyl, and R_{12} is a group having a t-butyl group and to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid); and the obtained block copolymer is treated with an acid reagent to eliminate and/or decompose only a specified amount of the group protecting the phenolic hydroxyl group.

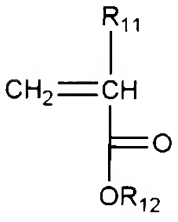
NEW CLAIMS

5. A process for the preparation of the alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 2 in which a compound represented by Formula (IV) whose hydroxyl group of the phenol residue is protected



Formula (IV)

(wherein, R_8 is hydrogen or methyl, R_9 is a group to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid, R_{10} is alkyl having 1 to 5 carbons, p is 0, 1 or 2 and R_{10} is the same or different when p is 2) is polymerized, or a compound of Formula (IV) and a vinylaromatic compound are copolymerized, by anionic polymerization using an anionic polymerization initiator as a polymerization initiator, followed by copolymerization with a (meth)acrylic ester represented by Formula (V)



Formula (V)

(wherein, R_{11} is hydrogen or methyl, and R_{12} is a group having a t-butyl group and to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid); and the obtained block copolymer is treated with an acid reagent to eliminate and/or decompose only a specified amount of the group protecting the phenolic hydroxyl group.

6. A process for the preparation of the alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 5 in which the step of eliminating and/or decomposing only a specified amount of the group protecting the phenolic hydroxyl group with an acid reagent is carried out at below 60°C.